NWT ARTS COUNCIL

The NWT Arts Council was established August 1985, as an advisory board to the GNWT. The mandate of the NWT Arts Council is to promote the arts in the Northwest Territories.

The Arts Council provides recommendations to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) on financial awards for creative artistic projects in the visual, literary, media and performing arts. This council also provides recommendations on issues and policies associated with the arts and artists.

Five members are appointed to the NWT Arts Council by the Executive Council of the Government of the Northwest Territories for a term of two years.

Members are selected for their expertise and abilities in the arts from five regions of the Northwest Territories: South Slave, Inuvik, Deh Cho, Sahtu and North Slave.

NWT Arts Council Members are:

Sonny MacDonald - Fort Smith Region
Ruth Wright - Inuvik Region
Lee Mandeville - North Slave Region
Julia Tsetso - Dehcho Region
Peggy Pouw -Sahtu Region

ECE administers the NWT Arts Council funding program for artistic projects, through the Community Programs Office, Division of Culture & Heritage.

Members meet once per year to review applications. The annual budget for financial contributions is $355,000.

Applicants may be eligible for funding from the NWT Arts Council if:

- they have been a resident of the NWT for at least 2 years immediately prior to the deadline
- they are an emerging artist or an established artist
- they are a registered NWT organization with a mandate to enhance the arts
- their application is for a specific creative project

The deadline for applications is January 31 each year.

For more information about the NWT Arts Council
or how to apply for a grant, please visit the website at:

www.nwtartscouncil.ca or
Phone: (867) 920-6370 or
email: boris_atamanenko@gov.nt.ca

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Yellowknife NT
Photo taken by Tessa Macintosh

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARTS™

ARTISTS' NEWSLINE

SUMMER 2008

A GNWT Newsletter for the Northwest Territories (NWT) Arts Community
Expression of the arts—a vital link to our culture and history

"To secure the stability of a vibrant arts sector that is integral to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the NWT, and contributes positively to the quality of life within the NWT."

Vision of the Northwest Territories Arts Strategy

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Photo Credit: France Trepanier

Installation view of VESSELS by artist France Trepanier which will be featured at the OSF 2008

The NWT's First Artist Run Centre - Fort Simpson, NT

Beginning in June 2008 the Open Sky Creative Society (OSCS) in Fort Simpson, NT will Open it's doors and commence operation of the first and only artist-run, year round professional public exhibition venue for contemporary art in the NWT (OSC Gallery).

The gallery and resource centre will be housed in the basement of the Village of Fort Simpson Administration Building until April 2009 when it will be relocated to the newly renovated/opened Fort Simpson Heritage Centre.

Four exhibitions are planned for 2008, the first of which will take place from June 25th-August 8th; titled: Craftwork-Craftsmanship. This inaugural exhibition will take place in conjunction with the Open Sky Festival 2008 & National Aboriginal Arts Administrators and Funders Gathering 2008 and will feature four national guest artists: Anna Torma, Alan Lacovetsky, Diane Gonthier, and Lyn Fabio as well as Lucy Simon, Phoebe Punch and Julia Tsetso from the Dehcho region.

For more information please visit the Open Sky Creative Society website at: www.openskyfestival.ca

FESTIVALS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS
June 21, 2008

Aboriginal day is a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with the cultural diversity of Inuit, Métis and First Nations peoples. Watch for events happening in your community.

OPEN SKY FESTIVAL
June 27-29 2008, Fort Simpson, NT

Featuring artists and musicians from the Dehcho region and beyond. This multi-day event is a celebration of art and will feature workshops, demonstrations, traditional crafts and visual arts exhibitions, dances and stories. This wonderful event is coordinated by the Open Sky Creative Society (OSCS).

For more information visit: www.openskyfestival.ca

THE GREAT NORTHERN ARTS FESTIVAL
July 11-20, 2008, Inuvik, NT

This 10 day celebration highlights the best arts and culture that the north has to offer. Over 100 Artists from the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut gather above the Arctic Circle in Inuvik to participate in the largest Visual Arts Festival in the north.

For more information visit the festival website at: www.gnaf.org

FOLK ON THE ROCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL
July 18-20, 2008, Yellowknife, NT

Enjoy programming from local, national and international artists on the beautiful shores of Long Lake. There will be international and traditional cuisine along with arts and fine crafts at the "Art on the Rocks" area.

For more information phone: (867) 920-7806
or visit: www.folkontherocks.com

Folk on the Rocks Music Festival Photo by: F Hurcomb

MIDWAY LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL
August 1-3, 2008, Fort McPherson, NT

Located 30km SW of Fort McPherson on Midway Lake, the festival features traditional Gwich'in singing, country music, dancing, and fiddling.

For more information phone: (867) 952-2330

END OF THE ROAD MUSIC FESTIVAL
August 7-9, 2008 Inuvik, NT

This festival takes place every summer and presents a wide variety of genres and performers from across the north and beyond. There is something for everyone at the End of the Road!

For more information visit the festival website at: www.eotrmusic.com

FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL
August 14-17, 2008 Fort Smith, NT

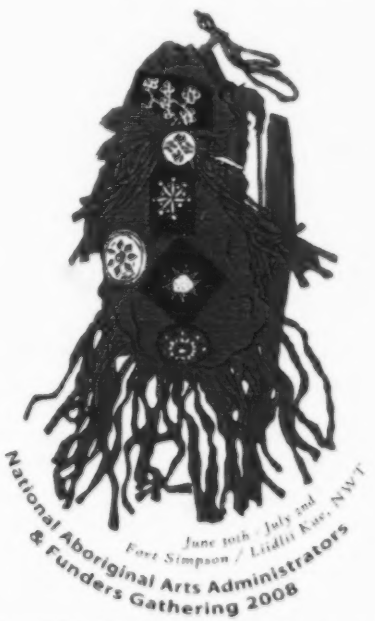
The largest annual event in the town of Fort Smith, NT, brings together musicians from around the NWT .

For more information phone: (867) 872-8400

IKHALUKPIK JAMBOREE
August, 2008, Paulatuk, NT

Traditional drum dances, games, music and more. Dates TBA.

For more information phone: (867) 580-3709



FESTIVALS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CULTURAL OLYMPIAD LAUNCHES ARTIST REGISTRY
The Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC), has created an artist registry for individual artists and ensembles interested in participating in Cultural Olympiad and/or other Olympic and Paralympic Games programs. Designed as a programming resource, the registry will also serve as a central artist database that VANOC can reference for the development of future events.
Submission guidelines are available at www.vancouver2010.com/en/CultureEducation/CulturalOlympiad/ArtistRegistry

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ARTISTS ON SITE
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is currently responsible for managing over twenty contaminated sites in the Northwest Territories in various states of remediation. For human health and environmental reasons, it is often necessary to remove buildings on the sites. To preserve the mining heritage of these sites, the Contaminants and Remediation Directorate (CARD) would like to offer the opportunity for select NWT professional artists to accompany a remediation project team to one or more sites, with the objective of portraying the heritage values of the site for future generations. The intent of the program is to collect one piece of flat art resulting from a site visit from each of the participating artists. **The deadline is June 25, 2008.** For furthern information and to obtain a project call letter and application form contact Lorna Skinner by phone: (867) 669-2847 or email: skinnerl@inac.gc.ca

SAHTU IN THE ARTS – An Evening of Music and Storytelling
June 26, 2008, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Yellowknife, NT
The evening will feature Paul Andrew as the MC, Fiddler, Dene drummer/story-teller Leon Andrew, Thomas Manuel, and Singer/Songwriter Stephen Kakfwi.

SAHTU IN THE ARTS – Art Show Exhibit June 26-27, 2008
Artworks by twelve artists from the Sahtu region of the NWT (Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Deline, Tulita and Colville Lake) will be featured and on display:
June 26, 2008, Explorer Hotel, Katimavik Room, 12:00pm – 6:00pm
June 27, 2008, Arrowmakers Gallery, Explorer Hotel, 12:00pm – 8:00pm
For more information please contact: (867) 587-7168 or 873-7203

GENERAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
The Open Sky Creative Society (OSCS) will be accepting proposals from artists and curators for the 2008-2009 programming season.
Proposals postmarked by July 20th, 2008 will be considered for the 2008-2009 exhibition season running from October 2008 to March 2009. OSCS encourages proposals from artists from diverse cultural and regional communities of Canada. All media will be considered within current space and equipment limitations (for more information please contact OSCS staff). ***Deadline: July 20th, 2008.***
For more information please phone: (867) 695-3005

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NWT Artists' Newsline keeps the NWT Arts Community informed on upcoming festivals and events, announcements, artists profiles and much more.

If you want your event publicized, or if you are an NWT artist who is interested in being showcased in our Featured Artists section, please contact us at:

Phone Toll Free: 1-877-445-ARTS (2787)
E-mail: nwtarts@gov.nt.ca **or**
Visit our website: www.nwtarts.com

What's going on in the NWT Regions!

WHAT THE REIONAL ITI OFFICES HAVE BEEN DOING TO SUPPORT THE ARTS IN THEIRCOMMUNITIIES

NORTH SLAVE REGION

The Arts and Fine Crafts Sector of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and the NWT Arts Council held an information session for NWT artists, art retailers and organizations in Yellowknife, NT on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The information session focused on the NWT Arts Branding Logo Program and the NWT Artists Database.

Regional staff provide assistance in all North Slave Region communities. The primary programs that artists have access to is the Business Development Fund (BDF) and Grants to Small Business (GSB). These programs are available and delivered by ITI staff in all regions. Within the BDF, Schedule I is specifically targeted to supporting access to traditional raw materials to help increase production and sales of arts and fine crafts.

The North Slave Regional office is preparing a new Arts and Fine Crafts Display unit to be set up in their office to help stimulate interest in locally made products and to showcase the wonderful work artists in this region produce.

SOUTH SLAVE REGION

South Slave Regional staff provide assistance to artists in communities within the region, primarily through providing access to the BDF and GSB programs.

The South Slave offices have set up six Arts and Fine Crafts display cases, three in the Hay River area and three in Fort Smith with a possibility of more displays in other locations. Each display kit showcases locally made products with information for interested buyers to contact the producer..

Staff are busy assisting clients and the local communities through various marketing and promotional efforts to ensure all upcoming arts & cultural events are well received and advertised and promoted.

DEHCHO REGION

Photo taken by Andrew Smith

The Dehcho regional office is a proud supporter of the Traditional Arts Program at the Aurora College in Fort Simpson this Program just completed its first semester this past April.

This three semester program teaches students traditional skills and how to blend old techniques with new forms. Students work with traditional materials such as hide and fur and learn how to traditionally bead, embroider and draft patterns.

(continued on next page)

The final project in the third semester will be making a parka using both traditional and conventional skills. This is the first time that this type of program has been offered in the Village of Fort Simpson. The last two semesters are scheduled to begin in September 2008 and January 2009.

ITI provided assistance to four local students to attend this program through the Business Development Fund. This program will help students pursue their goal as active arts and fine crafts producers.

Regional staff will be traveling to all of the surrounding Dehcho communities in June and July to meet with artists to discuss programs available through ITI that can provide assistance to artists such as the Grants to Small Business, Business Development Fund, nwtarts.com and the NWT Arts Branding Logo Program.

INUVIK REGION

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) for Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour and Ulukhaktok will be traveling to the communities this summer to meet with artists to talk about the NWT Arts branding logo, Artist's database, and other ITI arts and fine crafts programs:

July - Ulukhaktok, **August** - Paulatuk, **September** - Sachs Harbour

Ulukhaktok Quarry Pilot Project

The ITI Inuvik regional office has been working with the geology office (ITI) in YK to gather soapstone and alabaster stone for local carving artists. The quarrying took place in March in the community of Ulukhaktok. Seven men from the Hamlet were employed by the project and despite the attempts by mother nature to drive the men away, it was by all accounts quite successful. EDO Eugene Rees visited Ulukhaktok in mid April and was extremely pleased to find that the container unit referred to as the 'Sea-Can', was rented for storing the stone and contained approximately four thousand pounds of soapstone and five hundred pounds of alabaster.

The bulk of the stone is being sold to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) and arrangements have been made to fly most of the stone to Inuvik, NT. It will be distributed (sold) to artists through IRC's Community Economic Development Officer.

SAHTU REGION

This summer is going to be a busy one for the Sahtu regional ITI office in Norman Wells. Staff will be traveling to the surrounding communities of the Sahtu region to promote, enhance, and increase the awareness of arts and fine crafts. This will be achieved through:

- lectures by artists and information sessions for community artists.
- assisting individual artists interested in enhancing their artistic skills, and pursuing business related goals in the arts and fine crafts industry.
- assisting with the forming of a Sahtu artists association for collective marketing and art sector development.
- working with artists to identify funding opportunities.
- identifying and strengthen the arts link to tourism.